

# Scouts Observe 90th Birthday, Start Crusade

Sack to Bolster Liberty;  
Patterson at Luncheon

The thirty-ninth anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America was observed throughout the country yesterday, and to mark the event the organization started a "crusade" to "strengthen the arm of liberty."

President Truman, who is honorary president of the Boy Scouts of America, took note of the crusade in a message of congratulations. The message was read at the Commodore at the Scout Week luncheon of Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America. The principal speaker was Robert F. Patterson, former Secretary of War.

## Record of Scouts Stressed

The President's message stressed the record of service of the Boy Scout movement, while expressing the hope that more "men of high character" will rejoin the organization to serve as leaders of today's Scouts. "As your honorary president," he said, "I challenge you to achieve maximum results as you go forward with your crusade to 'strengthen the arm of liberty.'"

Mr. Patterson, pursuing the same theme, recalled some of the dangers "to our cherished liberties." He made a reference to the imprisonment and trial of Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, in Budapest.

"Despite the work being done in other lands to extinguish the spark of liberty," he said, "we know that all men prefer to have it. Last week and this week we have seen in a country not twenty-four hours from our own a man whose whole life career has been devoted to the gospel of love, brotherhood, kindness and the right of conscience—a man imprisoned, persecuted, tortured and put to what was called a trial—simply because of his conduct and his beliefs."

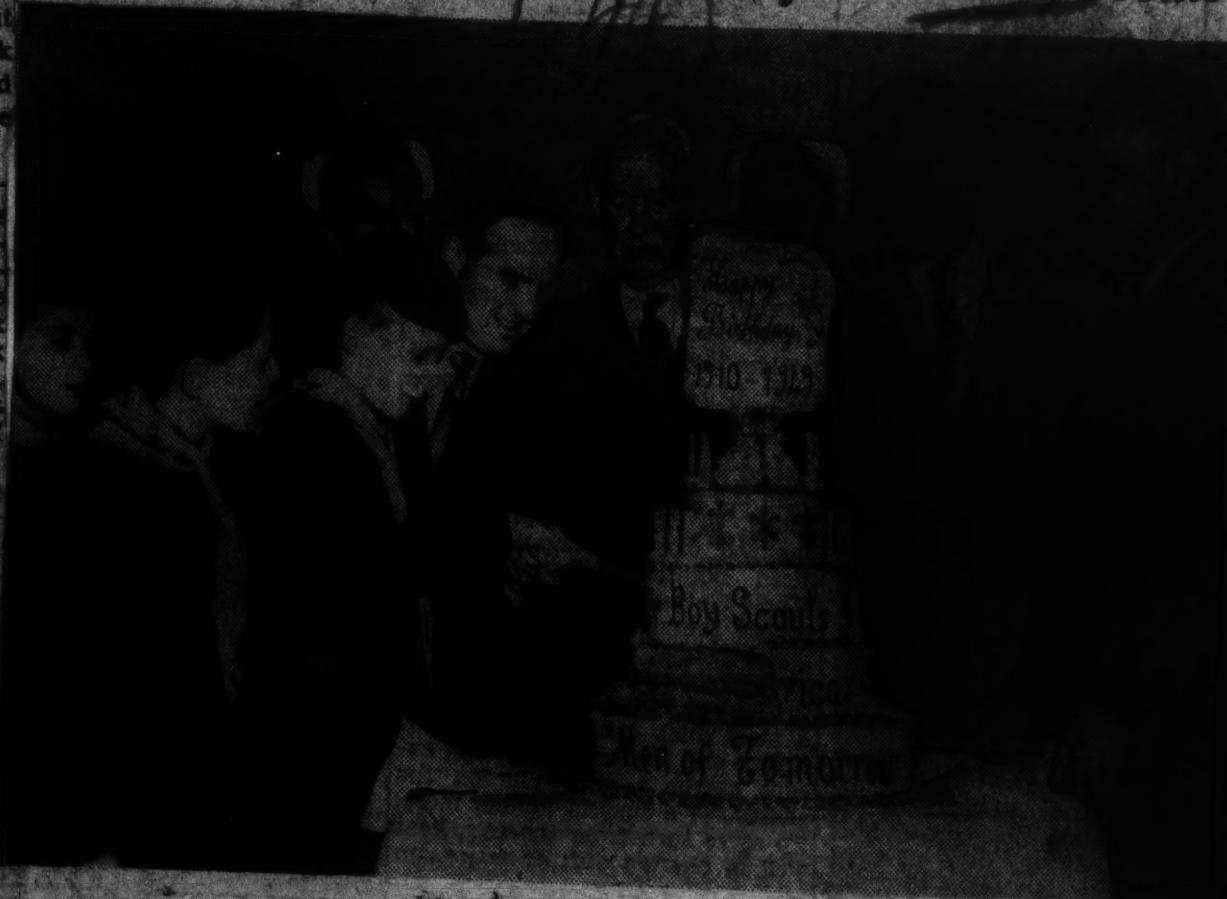
## Jackie Robinson a Speaker

Jackie Robinson, of the Brooklyn Dodgers, also spoke. The luncheon also marked the half-way mark in the current drive of

the Greater New York Councils for \$2,000,000. It was announced that \$435,588 had been raised toward the goal.

Fred Waring, band leader, was master of ceremonies for a musical program which included presentation of the recently formed New York Boy Scouts Glee Club, composed of 100 Scouts. The boys gave the first public rendition of "Tomorrow's America," a song dedicated to the Boy Scouts of America by Leo Edwards.

## Celebrating the 39th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts



Fred Waring, band leader and master of ceremonies, helps Cub Scout Steele Powers, eleven, cut the Scout birthday cake at the annual Scout Week luncheon yesterday at the Hotel Commodore. Others present were, left to right; Dr. George J. Fisher, National Boy Scout Commissioner; Jackie Robinson, of the Brooklyn Dodgers; and Robert S. Patterson, former Secretary of War.

## "Unto The Least Of These"

In all Bible history, there are but a precious few direct statements which can be attributed to Jesus as He walked and lived among men. Yet, it is no uncommon thing to hear, even some of our ministers, ending their scriptural passages with such a familiar ending as "Thus saith the Lord," which in truth, is not the saying of Jesus at all.

However, there are certain specific statements which Jesus did say and even though there may be some misgivings that he may not have said them, His whole life and nature, strongly support their truths. One of these is based upon the story of the last Judgment, found in the 25 chapter of St. Matthew. It says specifically: "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye

The pastor can only give impetus and support to the work. He must, as in all other cases, depend upon his lay leader-ship.

That is not a very good story. But as bad as it sounds, it is better than most of our churches because it has a troop which failed, while most of our churches have not even attempted to organize a troop and to direct the character formation of the boys belonging to their churches. It is better to fail trying than never to make a beginning. That's where most of our churches stand today on that score and it's down right distressing that our ministers and lay in the city churches will not recognize their God-given responsibility to help shape the lives and mould the character of these future leaders of the race.

Jesus "increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and Man." Then what should we expect of our boys, our children, whom Jesus taught a direct and special lesson about on many occasions during His ministry on earth?

There are things we can do. First, let's have a resurrection of Troop number 90 for the boys at the First Congregational Church. Second, let each layman in each church in Atlanta resolve here and now that he has a special obligation

did it not unto me." This is said in order to introduce the subject of this editorial. The subject is BOYS. More specifically, Atlanta's Negro boys. Last week, Thursday, to be exact, we were greatly shocked by a small news item appearing in our paper, hidden deep under the Scout News. Except for a few avid readers, it is altogether likely that it escaped the notice of most of our readers. Here is the gist of what it had to say: Scout Troop number 90 of The First Congregational Church, has been dropped by the Boy Scouts of America. The story described it as the oldest troop among Negroes of Atlanta, having been organized under the Rev. W. J. Walker, this troop, the writer said, "was responsible for more Eagle Scouts than any other group in the city." That is a distressing story. And the reason for it is more distressing. The only reason this wonderful troop must go out of the business of building character and developing future leaders among our boys is that there are not enough interested persons with the qualifications to serve as Scoutmasters. These are the qualifications, such as recruiting boys. The pastor at the First Congregational Church, that he is in no sense, responsible for this tragedy. To give the boys a chance to grow into useful men



...to help train, encourage and develop our boys into strong, useful and intelligent leaders for tomorrow. Third, let each church and church denomination which does not have an active troop in operation, to get one organized at once. Negro ministers in Atlanta are especially fortunate because they have such a rich reservoir of human and material resources with which to work. Think of the plight of the rural preacher compared with those in Atlanta. We think God is going to reserve a selected spot in His Kingdom for the faithful rural minister, because he works so close to God in so many ways.

Within the next six or eight weeks, this paper is going to carry as a public service, the names of every church, its minister and its Scoutmaster, which has a troop organized and without sugar-coating, we owe at least this much to our boys!

## Nation's 1st Negro Scout Troop Was Formed Here, Leader Says

Louisville was the first city in America to establish a Negro Boy Scout troop, Weaver M. Marr, New York, national director of interracial service of Boy Scouts of America, said yesterday.

It was a banner day for Louisville-area Scouts. In addition to the visit of the national director, their new executive secretary, Judson C. Jusell, began his work here.

Marr is on a tour of councils in the fourth area, which includes Kentucky.

The first Negro troop was chartered here in 1917, Marr said. He complimented Camp Dan Beard, the Negro Scout camp site, saying it was the "most beautiful camp site I have ever seen. It has wonderful possibilities. If people will continue to take an interest in it and develop it," he added.

Marr said that in addition to Negro troops he was interested in establishing Latin American, American Indian, and Oriental troops. From a population standpoint, by far the greatest number of potential Scouts are among the Negroes. However, there are only 120,000 Negro Scouts in the country. "We have work to do there," Marr said.

"Our greatest problem is getting leadership," he continued. "There is plenty of ability among the Negroes—but it is a question of training that leadership and putting it to work."

The Boy Scouts of America, Marr said, currently are engaged in a crusade "to strengthen the arm of liberty." The crusade will last two years, concluding with celebration of the 40th anniversary of Scouting in America. Three things are being emphasized during the crusade—leader-

"I am concentrating on leadership—we need leaders in all walks of life," Marr said.

## Give 20 Acre Camp Site To St. Louis Boy Scouts

By R. C. FISHER

ST. LOUIS (ANP)—H. D. Robinson, prominent Negro upholsterer and refrigerator and appliance store operator, has donated a twenty-acre tract of land to a Jewish Boy Scout group.

In announcing the donation, Robinson said he was moved by the fine treatment accorded him by the Jewish people. Said the donor:

"I think there are times and places when the Negro must turn the tables and show that he, too, can be a beneficent."



## Negro Girl Scouts Show 500% Increase Since '40

Atlanta, Ga.

NEW YORK—Negro Girl Scouts have increased their numbers more than 500 percent since 1940, it was made known this week at the National Headquarters of Girl Scouts. Membership figures for 1948 show that Girl Scouting reaches nine out of every 100 girls of Scout age in the United States, according to the national annual report. In 1940, the annual report shows, four out of every 100 girls were members of the organization. *Jan. 7-2-49*

Figures for Negro membership were not available for 1948, but the 1947 statistics showed that there were 33,928 Negro girls in all-Negro troops at the end of 1947, as compared with only 6,268 at the end of 1940.

In addition to the more than thirty-three thousand Negro girls in all-Negro Scout troops, there were approximately 3,000 in interracial troops as of December 31, 1947, whereas there were only 500 Negro girls in the 205 interracial troops in 1940.

At the end of December 1948, the total membership of the Scout organization was 1,265,351, the report states. This figure includes 292,536 adult volunteers who serve as sponsors, troop leaders, council members and advisors. Girl membership stood at 972,715 divided into the following age groups: seven-to-ten year old Brownie Scouts, 772,834; Girl Scouts (ten to thirteen or fourteen) 550,676; Senior Scouts (fourteen to seventeen) 49,205.

### THOUSANDS NEEDED

Citing the adult volunteer workers in Girl Scouting for their service to youth, Mrs. O. Vaughan Ferguson, national president, states in the report that thousands more are needed. *Jan. 7-2-49*

"During 1949 more than 1,375,000 girls will reach Brownie Scout age about 300,000 more than the number who are graduating from Senior Scout age. In 1955, there will be almost fifteen million girls seven through seventeen in our population. If we are to meet this increase with more Girl Scouting we must ask the support of thousands who have not participated before," Mrs. Ferguson's statement says.

A financial statement in the report lists the costs of administering the national Girl Scout movement at \$1,804,186.13. The largest single item in the 1948 budget was the cost of providing advisory ser-

vice to councils and long ranges in the 48 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and the Canal Zone.

### Girl's Picture Appears On Girl Scout Calendar For New Year

NEW YORK (ANP) — The

pretty brown-skinned girl on the Girl Scout calendar for 1949, is 11-year-old Joan McKinely, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. McKinely, of this city.

A girl scout for several years, Joan was selected for the calendar and for other scout pictures because she is highly photogenic, as well as having an outstanding service record.

A junior-high school student of good scholastic ability, her hobbies are sewing, painting and drawing. Joan's father is a probation officer in the city's courts and her mother a social security bureau employee. They are both from New York City.

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